



Embassy of the United States of America

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

WARDEN MESSAGE

December 31, 2009

The Embassy requests that wardens pass the following message in its entirety to members of the American Community:

NO.14/2009

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, the Consulate General in Dhahran and the Consulate General in Jeddah encourage U.S. citizens in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to follow good security practices and maintain situational awareness. Following the attempted attack aboard Northwest Airlines flight 253, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) publicly claimed responsibility for the incident and stated that it was in response to American interference in Yemen. In the same statement, the group made threats against Westerners working in embassies and elsewhere, characterizing them as “unbelievers” and “crusaders.” The U.S. Missions would like to take this opportunity to remind Americans of the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against American citizens and interests throughout the world and urge U.S. citizens to maintain a high level of vigilance.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens to exercise prudence and enhanced security awareness. Most personnel experience relatively few security concerns; however, situations can change suddenly. Regardless of where you are, it is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high.

Please follow these good security practices:

- | Do not be time and place predictable. Vary your routes and times to and from work. Do not frequent the same shops with regularity;
- | Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;

- ‖ Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi Government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;
- ‖ Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;
- ‖ Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;
- ‖ Minimize your profile while in public;
- ‖ Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (01-488-3800), U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (03-330-3200) and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (02-667-0080). The emergency number for the Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999.
- ‖ Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;
- ‖ Report all concerns and any demonstrations you may experience to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh or the Consulates General in Dhahran and Jeddah.

U.S. citizens are reminded to remain aware of the latest news concerning events within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and neighboring countries (e.g., Yemen conflict).

American citizens are reminded to keep their registration up-to-date. See <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> for registration information. You can also review earlier Warden Messages at <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>.

General Inquiries: RiyadhACS@state.gov

Registration Inquiries: RegistrationRID@state.gov

ACS Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html>